

- B1
- 1 2. (twice amended) The method of claim 1, wherein determining the current [node identifier] NIC
2 address value includes an attempt to detect the then-current NIC address value.

- 1 3. (previously amended) The method of claim 2, wherein the attempt to detect the then-current
2 NIC address value is unsuccessful, and further comprising (i) retrieving, from a data storage at the node, a
3 stored value containing the result of a past live detection of the then-current NIC address value, referred to
4 as a previously-detected NIC address value; and (ii) transmitting the previously-detected NIC address
5 value.

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- 1 4. (previously canceled)

- 1 5. (previously amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the NIC address value comprises a sig-
2 nature portion and a pseudorandomly generated portion.

- 1 6. (previously amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the former NIC address value is redun-
2 dantly stored in multiple partitions within the data storage at the node.

- 1 7. (previously amended) The method of claim 6, wherein (x) each copy of the former NIC ad-
2 dress value is associated with a timestamp, and (y) retrieving the former NIC address value comprises re-
3 trieving the respective copy associated with the most recent timestamp.

- B2
- 1 8. (twice amended) A method, executed by a server node on a network, for recording, in a data-
2 base, asset-management information about a client node, comprising:
3 (a) receiving, [information from the client node, said information including a current
4 node-identification information for the client node that includes (i) a current] from the client node, (1) as-
5 set-management information about the client node, (2) a current address value of a network interface card
6 of the client node, referred to as a current NIC address value, and [(ii)] (3) a former NIC address value for
7 the client node that is equal to the current NIC address value;

8 (b) unsuccessfully attempting to locate, in the database, a record corresponding to the
 9 current NIC address value;
 10 (c) unsuccessfully attempting to locate, in the database, a record corresponding to the
 11 former NIC address value; and
 12 [(b)] (d) storing the asset-management information, the current NIC address value, and
 13 the former NIC address value in a record in the database associated with the current NIC address value.
 14 [node-identification information, the current node-identifier value and the former node-identifier value.]

[1 9. (previously canceled)

[1 10. (previously amended) The method of claim 8, wherein the NIC address value comprises a
 2 signature portion and a pseudorandomly generated portion.

19
 1 ~~17.~~ (twice amended) A program storage device readable by a processor in the client node of a
 2 specified one of claims 1 through 3, ⁴ ~~5~~ through ⁶ ~~7~~, and ¹⁵ ~~21~~ through ¹⁸ ~~23~~ ²⁵ ~~24~~, and encoding a program of in-
 3 structions including instructions for performing the operations recited in the specified claim as being per-
 4 formed by the client node.

20
 1 ~~18.~~ (amended) A program storage device readable by a processor in the server node of a specified
 2 one of claims ~~8~~, ⁷ [and] ⁹ ~~10~~, and ¹⁰ ~~24~~ and encoding a program of instructions including instructions for per-
 3 forming the operations recited in said specified claim as being performed by the client node.

9
 1 ~~19.~~ (twice amended) In a node on a network, a data store comprising a machine-readable data
 2 structure accessible to a processor in the node and containing node-identification information for the client
 3 node that includes (i) a current network interface card value for the node, referred to as a NIC address
 4 value, and (ii) a former NIC address value.

[1 14. (previously canceled)

1 15. (previously amended) The data store of claim 13, wherein the NIC address value that consti-
2 tutes the current node-identifier value includes a signature portion and a pseudorandomly generated por-
3 tion.

BH 1 12 16. (amended) In a node on a network, a data store comprising:
2 (a) a plurality of machine-readable data structures accessible to a processor in the node;
3 (b) each said data structure containing node-identification information for the client node
4 that includes (i) a current node-identifier value, and (ii) a former node-identifier value, each said value
5 comprising a network interface card address value, referred to as a NIC address value.
6 (c) each said data structure being associated with a timestamp.

1 17. (canceled)

16 9 1 18. (amended) The data store of claim [17] 18, wherein the NIC address value comprises a signa-
2 ture portion and a pseudorandomly generated portion.

B5 1 13 19. (amended) In a server node on a network, that includes a client node, a machine-readable data
2 structure accessible to a processor in the server node, comprising (i) a current value of a network interface
3 card address for the client node, referred to as a current NIC address value for the client node, [and] (ii) a
4 former NIC address value for the client node, and (iii) asset-management information about the client node.

14 13 1 20. The machine-readable data structure of claim 19, wherein the current NIC address value com-
2 prises a signature portion and a pseudorandomly generated portion.

B6 1 15 21. (amended) A method, executed by a node on a network, of transmitting [identifying] asset-
2 management information about the node, the method comprising:
3 (a) determining a current node identifier value, where (1) the node identifier value for any
4 particular node in the network is dependent on one or more node-identification attributes of that node in-
5 cluding an address value of a network interface card in the node, referred to as a NIC address value, and

6 (2) determining the current node identifier value includes an attempt to detect the then-current values of
7 said one or more node-identification attributes;
8 (b) retrieving, from a data storage at the node, a former node identifier value for the node;
9 and
10 (c) transmitting asset-management information about the node together with the current
11 node identifier value and the former node identifier value. --

1 22. The method of claim 21, wherein the attempt to detect said one or more node-identification at-
2 tributes fails to detect at least one of said node-identification attributes, and further comprising (i) retriev-
3 ing, from a data storage at the node, a stored value containing the result of a past live detection of the said
4 one or more node-identification attributes, referred to as a previously-detected node identifier value; and
5 (ii) transmitting the previously-detected node identifier value.

1 23. (amended) A method, executed by a node on a network, of transmitting [identifying] asset-
2 management information about the node, the method comprising:
3 (a) attempting but failing to detect a current network interface card address value for the
4 node, referred to as a current NIC address value;
5 (b) retrieving, from a data storage at the node, a previously-detected NIC address value;
6 (c) retrieving, from a data storage at the node, a stored value of a former NIC address
7 value for the node; and
8 (d) transmitting the asset-management information together with the previously-detected
9 NIC address value and the former NIC address value.

1 24. (new) A method, executed by a client node and a server node on a network, for recording,
2 in a database, asset-management information about the client node, comprising:
3 (a) the client node (1) determining a current address value of a network interface card in
4 the node, referred to as a NIC address value, (2) retrieving, from a data storage at the node, a former NIC
5 address value for the node, and (3) transmitting to the server node the asset-management information, the
6 current NIC address value, and the former NIC address value;
7 (b) the server node (1) unsuccessfully attempting to locate, in the database, a record cor-
8 responding to the current NIC address value, (2) locating, in the database, a record corresponding to the
9 former NIC address value, (3) recording the asset-management information in said record, and (4) updating
10 the record to correspond to the current NIC address instead of to the former NIC address value. --